

IN THE CLAIMS:

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Please cancel claim 21 without prejudice and amend claims 1, 7-9 and 22-23 as follows.

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1. (twice amended) A composite comprising:  
a plurality of filaments; and  
a plurality of matrix islands, each of said matrix islands having an average size of less than 5 mm in a planar dimension and connecting at least two filaments so as to hold the plurality of filaments in a unitary structure; wherein the final volume ratio of matrix islands to the plurality of filaments in the composite is approximately 0.5 or less.

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7. (amended) The composite of claim 1, wherein the filaments are filaments selected from the group consisting of polyethylene of molecular weight greater than about 500,000, polypropylene of weight average molecular weight greater than about 750,000, aramid, polyvinyl alcohol of weight average molecular weight greater than about 100,000, polyacrylonitrile of weight average molecular weight greater than about 400,000, polybenzoxazole, polybenzothiazole, fiberglass, ceramic and combinations thereof.

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8. (amended) The composite of claim 7 wherein the plurality of filaments comprises polyethylene of molecular weight greater than about 500,000.

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9. (amended) The composite of claim 8 wherein the polyethylene filaments have a tenacity of from about 30 g/denier or greater and a modulus of from about 1500 g/denier or greater.

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22. (amended) The composite of claim 1, wherein the composite possesses an h/l ratio of from about 0.7 or more.

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23. (amended) The composite of claim 1, wherein the composite possesses an h/l ratio of from about 0.85 or more.